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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

- 1 (Currently Amended) A method for generating a data slice of a SONET/SDH type data frame, wherein the data slice has a plurality of STS-1 blocks, the method comprising steps of:
  - a) reading a pointer state indication for one STS-1 block;
  - b) whenever the pointer state indication has a concatenation indication, generating payload bytes of the STS-1 block such that the B3 byte of the STS-1 block assumes a predetermined fixed value; and
  - c) repeating step a) and step b) for all STS-1 blocks within the data slice.
- 2 (Original) The method in claim 1 wherein the step of generating payload bytes comprises:
  - b1) selecting a fixed payload byte;
  - b2) randomly generating all payload bytes except said fixed payload byte; and
  - b3) assigning said fixed payload byte a value such that the B3 byte assumes a predetermined fixed B3 value;
3. (Original) The method in claim 1 wherein said predetermined fixed value is 0.
4. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a SONET/SDH frame, the method comprising steps of:
  - A) initiating a set of programmable register values with frame parameters,
  - B) generating data slices comprising a plurality of STS-1 blocks based on said frame parameters, said data slice generation including:
    - whenever a large concatenation mode within said frame parameters assumes an ON state:
      - a) setting the pointer value to a predetermined fixed pointer value;
    - and

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- b) generating payload bytes of every STS-1 block having a concatenation indication such that the B3 byte of the STS-1 block assumes a predetermined fixed B3 value;
  - C) collecting the data slices to generate a frame
- 5. (Currently Amended) A data generator for generating SONET/SDH type data frames, the data generator comprising:
  - a plurality of processing strips for generating a plurality of associated data slices having STS-1 blocks, wherein when each strip may operate~~operates~~ in a large concatenation mode, ~~in which a fixed pointer value and a fixed B3 value is assumed-used~~ for each STS-1 block within the data slice; and
  - a data collection block for collecting generated data slices into a data frame.